

Being Muslim in the EU

Sciences Po

1 June 2026, Paris

What does the report cover?

- **Discrimination and awareness of rights**
- **Hate crime:** racist harassment and violence
- **Police stops**
- **Socio-economic situation and living conditions:**
 - education
 - employment
 - housing and poverty
 - health
- **Key findings and Opinions**
- **Annexes:** methodology, sample composition & socio-demographic profile of the respondents, terminology

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EXPERIENCES OF MUSLIMS

EU SURVEY ON IMMIGRANTS AND
DESCENDANTS OF IMMIGRANTS

Who are the respondents?

- 9,604 respondents **who self-identify as Muslims**
- 4 target groups (NOAFR, SSAFR, SYR, TUR)
- 46 countries of origin
- 13 EU countries
- between 58 to 920 respondents per EU country and group

- **Respondents' characteristics**

- Average age: 39 years
- 46% women
- 48% are citizens of the EU country they reside in
- 74% born outside the EU
- Average stay in the EU: 20 years

Country	Target groups
AT	SSAFR, SYR, TUR
BE	NOAFR, SSAFR
DE	SSAFR, SYR, TUR
DK	SSAFR, SYR, TUR
EL	SYR
ES	NOAFR, SSAFR
FI	SSAFR
FR	NOAFR, SSAFR
IE	SSAFR
IT	NOAFR, SSAFR
LU	SSAFR
NL	SYR, TUR
SE	SSAFR, SYR



Sample in France

	NOAFR	SSAFR
Sample size	472	211
Average age (years)	44	34
Women (%)	46	43
French citizenship	54	41
Immigrants (foreign-born)	73	87
Average stay (years)	25	15

Selected key findings

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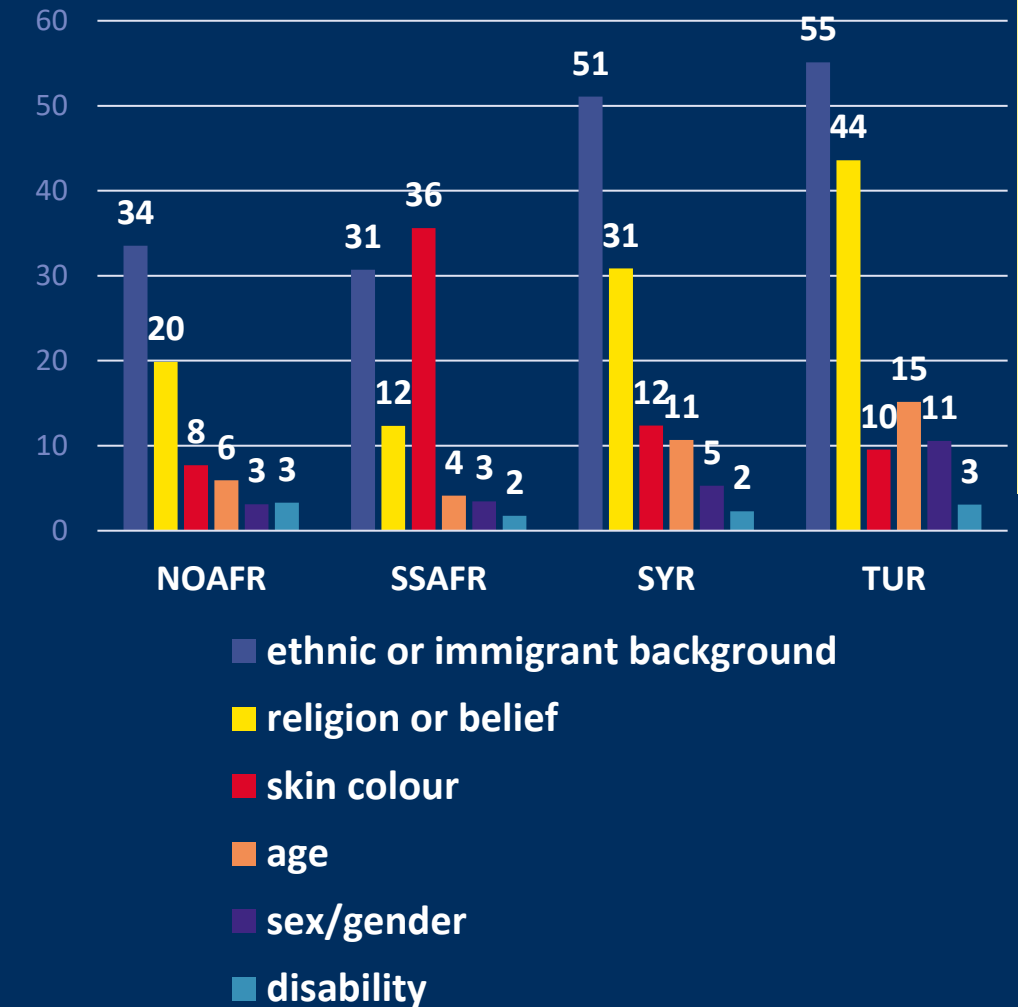
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Experiences of discrimination

- Discrimination **on any ground** in 5 years: 50%
 43%
- 'Ethnic or immigrant background' & 'religion or religious belief' are the most common grounds
- Overall, racial discrimination against Muslims has **risen** since 2016 in key areas of life:
 - 5-year** prevalence: 47% in 2022, 39% in 2016;
 NOAFR: 39% and 46%; SSAFR: 40% and 50%
12-month prevalence: 35% in 2022, 25% in 2016
 NOAFR: 28% and 31%; SSAFR: 27% and 30%
- Most Muslims experience discrimination on **multiple grounds** (53%)

Grounds of discrimination experienced in the 5 years before the survey, by target group (%)



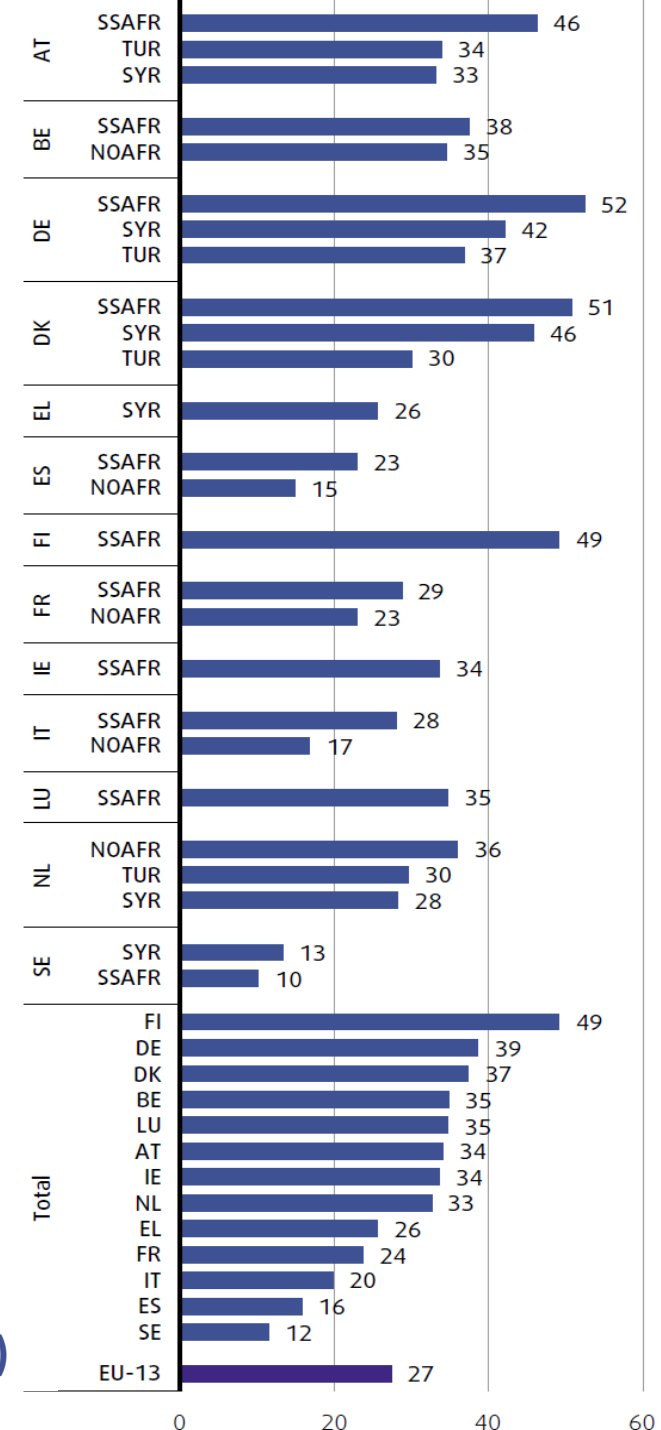
Experiences of discrimination

- Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination
- **Groups at higher risk of racial discrimination (12-month prevalence):**
 - Young Muslims (16-24 years old) (40%)
 - Descendants of immigrants (49%)
 - Tertiary education (46%)
- **Minority groups:**
 - Religion (46%)
 - Disability (52%)
 - Gender identity or gender expression (54%)
 - Sexual orientation (45%)
- **Discrimination remains a recurring experience, yet invisible:**
 - 75% of victims: it happened more than twice in the 12 months before the survey
 - 6% of victims report incidents to anybody;  6%

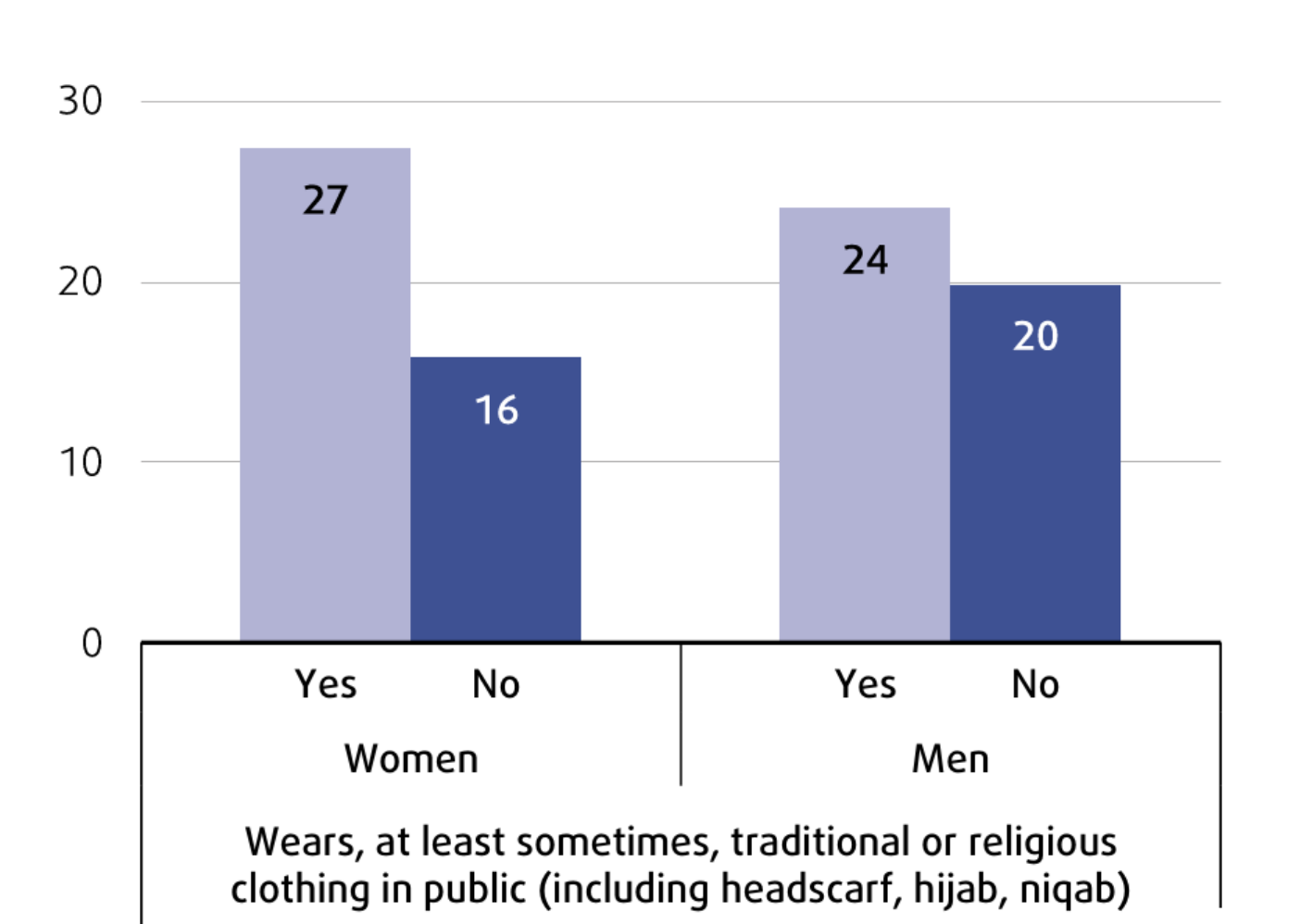
Racist harassment remains widespread

- 27% of Muslim respondents experienced racist harassment in the 5 years before the survey; 22% - in the year before the survey
- **Most common forms:** offensive non-verbal cues (17%), offensive or threatening comments (13%), threats of violence (3%)
- **Repeated experiences:** 67% of victims experienced harassment more than once
- **Low reporting:** 12% of victims report incidents to police or other services

Prevalence of racist harassment in the 5 years before the survey, by country and target group (%)



Prevalence of racist harassment in the 12 months before the survey among Muslim respondents, by wearing traditional or religious clothing in public at least sometimes, and gender(%)



Racist violence goes unreported

- **Violence remains:** 4% of Muslim respondents experienced racist violence in the 5 years before the survey
- **Reporting is low:** 30% of victims report incident to the police or other service
- **Reasons for not reporting:** most people believe that nothing would change if they reported it
- **Impact of violence:** most victims (55%) suffer from psychological after-effects, such as depression or anxiety, and 22% are afraid to leave the house

Impact of racist violence (%)



Discriminatory profiling persists

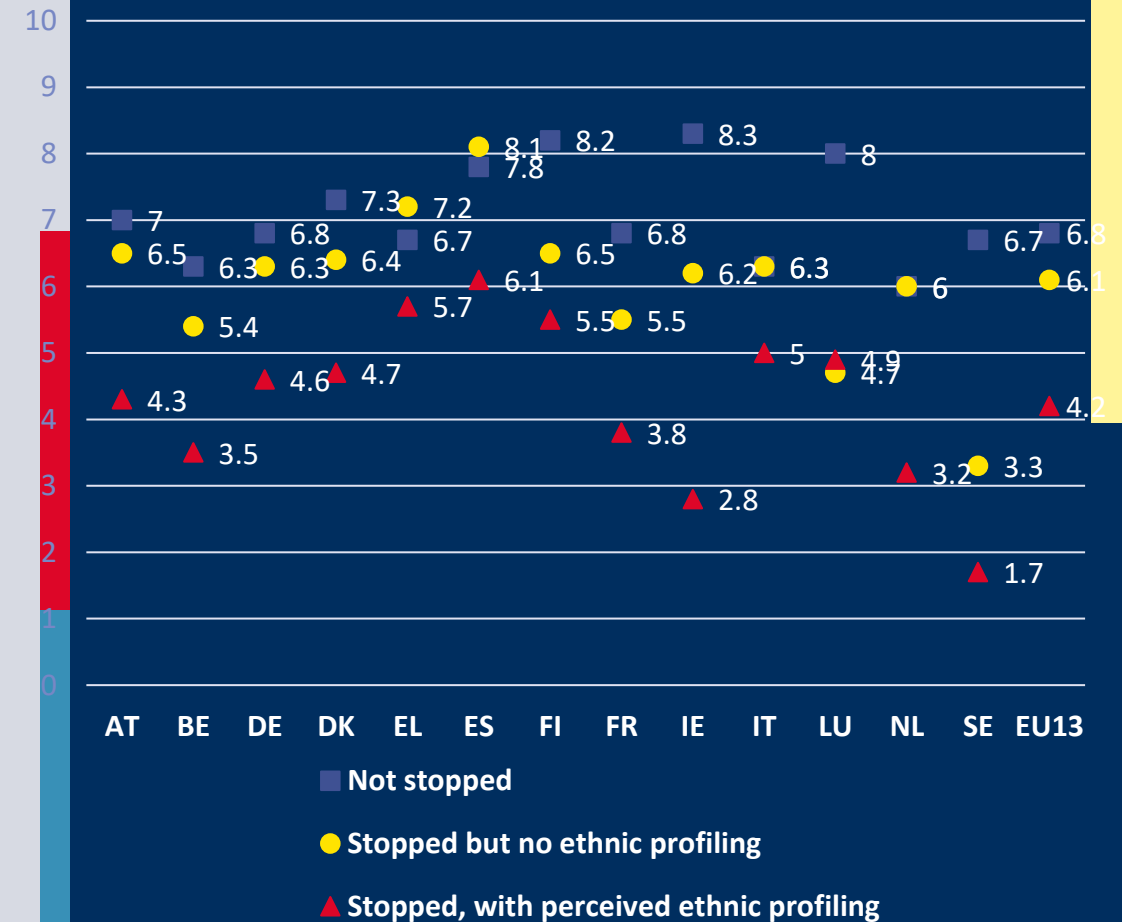
- **Discriminatory profiling:** 49% of Muslims who were stopped by the police in the year before the survey believe it was due to discriminatory racial profiling



NOAFR: 34%, SSAFR: 51%

- **Gender difference:** Muslim men are more likely to perceive their recent stop as racial profiling than women (46% compared with 27%)
- **Impact of discriminatory profiling:** those who perceive their stop as profiling show much lower trust in the police than those who do not experience racial profiling (a score of 4.2 vs 6.1 on a scale of 0–10)

Levels of trust in the police, by experience with police in the 5 years before the survey (average values on a scale of 0 to 10)



Socioeconomic situation and living conditions

- **Education:** young Muslims are 3 times more likely to leave school early compared to the general population (30% vs 9.6%)
- **Employment rate** (20 to 64 years old) is **lower for:**
 - Muslim respondents than the general population (63% vs 75%),  60% vs 74%
 - Muslim women than Muslim men (53% vs 73%),  54% vs 66%
 - Muslim women who wear religious clothing than those who do not (46% and 61%)
- **Housing:** 35% experienced racial discrimination in the 5 years before the survey,  27%
 - 40% of people in households of Muslim respondents live in overcrowded housing (17% for the general population)  37% vs 9%
 - 24% of people in households of Muslim respondents live in housing deprivation (14% for the general population)  26% vs 18%
- **Health:** Muslim respondents are twice as likely as the general population to have unmet medical needs (8% vs 4%)  8% vs 6%

FRA calls on EU Member States to

- Enforce **anti-discrimination legislation** and effective, proportionate and dissuasive **sanctions**
- Renew the EU anti-racism action plan beyond 2025 and include actions to **specifically counter anti-Muslim racism**
- Ensure that **equality bodies** have the **necessary mandates** and **sufficient resources** to tackle discrimination effectively and independently
- Ensure proper reporting, recording of **hate crimes**, incl. crimes against Muslims or those perceived as Muslims; raise victims' awareness of their rights and available support services
- Eradicate discriminatory institutional practices and cultures that lead to **unlawful police profiling**
- Tackle **racism in education** and **employment**
- Tackle **racism in housing**, incl. ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing
- Tackle **racism in health**, incl. meeting medical needs and guaranteeing the right to healthcare

Thank you!

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